

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5223

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008

RELEASE OF PAKISTANI PRISONERS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to release more than 100 Pakistanis lodged in Indian prisons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of Indian prisoners lodged in Pakistani prisons as on date; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for their release?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) There are 119 Pakistani nationals inclusive of 14 fishermen in jails in India at present who can be repatriated after their national status has been confirmed.

(c) According to available information there are 205 Indian prisoners and 436 fishermen in jails in Pakistan.

(d) Issues related to release of Indians in jails in Pakistan are taken up with Government of Pakistan consistently in different bilateral meetings including at the highest level. During the visit of EAM to Pakistan on January 13-14 2007, it was decided to form a Judicial Committee comprising judges from India and Pakistan to ensure expeditious release and humane treatment of prisoners in either country. The Committee first met on 26-27 February 2008 in New Delhi. It recommended that a consolidated list with full particulars and their present status of nationals in each other's jails be exchanged on 31 March 2008 and those prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose national status has been verified be released forthwith. The lists of prisoners have been exchanged by the two Governments on March 31. Government expect the Government of Pakistan to implement the recommendations of the Judicial Committee to release and provide consular access to all detained fishermen and prisoners.